



RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

SHAPING OUR FUTURE

Professor Preston Bottger asks: What is the price of responsible leadership and are we willing to pay it?

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It is important to understand the realities of responsible leadership in the turmoil we now face. What are the lessons we have learnt so far during the current crisis? Who are the new stakeholders who suddenly are demanding something new from us? What are the new conflicts imposed on us by differing stakeholder demands? What is the scariest scenario that we can allow ourselves to imagine? Do we have the right people to lead the necessary improvisations and innovations?

In a Responsible Leadership Summit workshop session led by Preston Bottger, IMD Professor of Leadership and General Management, participants had a lively discussion on these and other critical questions facing everyone in positions of responsibility.

“It’s relatively straightforward to lead in times of abundance, but the real ‘responsible’ leaders show their true capabilities when the going gets tough,” said Professor Bottger.

“In recent conversations with CEOs, they have mentioned something rather alarming: that they see too much paralysis among other senior leaders.

“We expect from responsible occupants of high management positions that they will embrace the realities of the crisis. That’s the first step. Then they must mobilize a critical mass of people within their organizations who have the abilities and willingness to define what has to be done –or can be done, given all the constraints and then implement.

“Yet, these CEOs also report that too few of their managers have ever dealt with non-growth circumstances. They say that they are looking closely for those people in their companies who have already changed their mindset from the old assumptions and certainties, and who can both follow strict new corporate guidelines and take initiatives on their own accord.



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“Now is the time that many people will remake their careers. Now is the time that many managers will answer the question: Will I pay the price required of one known as a 'responsible leader,' in a time of great challenge?”